

## What is the Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship Program?

The Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship Program is a tuition assistance program whose purpose is to help eligible individuals develop a knowledge foundation in child care and development through attending courses at Virginia institutions of higher learning. The scholarship program is financed through Virginia's share of the federal Child Care and Development Fund.

## Who is eligible to participate in the program?

The program is for current and future child care providers. A child care provider is someone who is employed in a regularly operating service arrangement for children where, during the absence of a parent or guardian, a person or organization has agreed to assume responsibility for the supervision, protection, and well-being of a child under the age of 13 for less than a 24-hour period. Child care is care provided in the child's home as well as outside of the child's home.

To be eligible to participate in the program, an individual must be in one of the following categories:

- Already providing child care in a program located in Virginia,
- Domiciled in Virginia and employed in a child care program outside of Virginia, or
- Domiciled in Virginia and planning to become employed in child care.

Accordingly, scholarships are not available to individuals who are or plan to become teachers and teachers' aides in the public or private school systems for all mandatory instructional programs serving school-age children and special education programs serving preschool children.

Scholarships are available, however, to public or private school personnel who are employed in education and care preschool programs or before-school or after-school child care programs. Some examples of eligible child care programs operated by public or private schools are: Head Start, Virginia Preschool Initiatives, school-based before-school child care programs, and school-based after-school child care programs.

## How does the Program Operate?

Persons interested in receiving a scholarship submit a completed application to the Virginia Department of Social Services (Department) during the appropriate application period. The scholarship program makes awards on a first come, first served basis to all applicants who submit completed applications and meet program eligibility requirements.

Scholarships are awarded for undergraduate courses that focus on preparing students to be child care providers. All courses must be approved by the Department. Recipients may attend various institutions using scholarship funds and are not limited to attending only one institution for all courses paid with scholarship funds.

The scholarship award pays the cost of the tuition and technology fee for each course up to the lifetime maximum award, which is \$1,707.52. The program will pay for up to two courses each semester and a total of eight courses altogether.

The Department will notify all applicants by mail of the application decision and will inform the institutions of scholarships approved for their respective institutions. Scholarships are awarded on a semester basis and cannot be transferred across semesters or students. An appeal process is in place for those persons who believe the scholarship determination was based on inaccurate information.

For practical purposes, the Department pays the institution directly in most cases. This results in institutions only having to collect from one entity, students not needing to have funds available to pay for the courses, and a simplified billing process for the Department.

### APPLICATION PERIODS

**Applications are accepted as follows:**

Fall Semesters  
June 15 – August 20

Spring Semesters  
November 1 – January 7

Summer Semesters  
March 15 – May 15

## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. Does the scholarship program help pay for books?
- A. No. However, you may seek alternative sources of funding from other agencies or organizations to help with expenses.
- Q. Can the scholarship be used at any college or university?
- A. No. The scholarship can be used to attend all Virginia based public and private accredited institutions of higher learning approved by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. This includes all in-state accredited Virginia public colleges, universities, two-year colleges, and community colleges and all accredited Virginia private not-for-profit and private for-profit colleges and universities. The application has a complete listing of these institutions.
- Q. Do scholarship recipients have to be employed full-time in child care or in a particular setting?
- A. No. This program is for persons employed in any type of child care program. There are no minimum requirements on the amount of time recipients must be employed. In addition, persons who are not currently employed in child care can participate in this program if they are planning to enter the field of child care.

## Benefits

The program benefits Virginia families and providers. Virginia families benefit from having better trained child care providers. The provider benefits from having an improved knowledge and skills level that may result in improved job satisfaction or career advancement and the opportunity to receive some financial assistance toward obtaining a certificate or degree. The courses may be used toward such achievements as:

- ◆ Career Studies Certificate in Early Childhood Education
- ◆ Career Studies Certificate in School Age Child Care Education
- ◆ Career Studies Certificate in Child Care Management
- ◆ Advanced Careers Studies Certificate in Early Childhood Education
- ◆ Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education
- ◆ Bachelor Degree in Early Childhood Education

### Additional Information

For more information about the Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship Program or to obtain an application, please contact:

Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship Program

Northern Virginia Community College

6901 Sudley Road

Manassas, VA 20109

1-866-636-1608 or (804) 225-3110

Email : [childcare.scholarship@nvcc.edu](mailto:childcare.scholarship@nvcc.edu)

<http://www.dss.state.va.us/facility/scholarship.html>

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